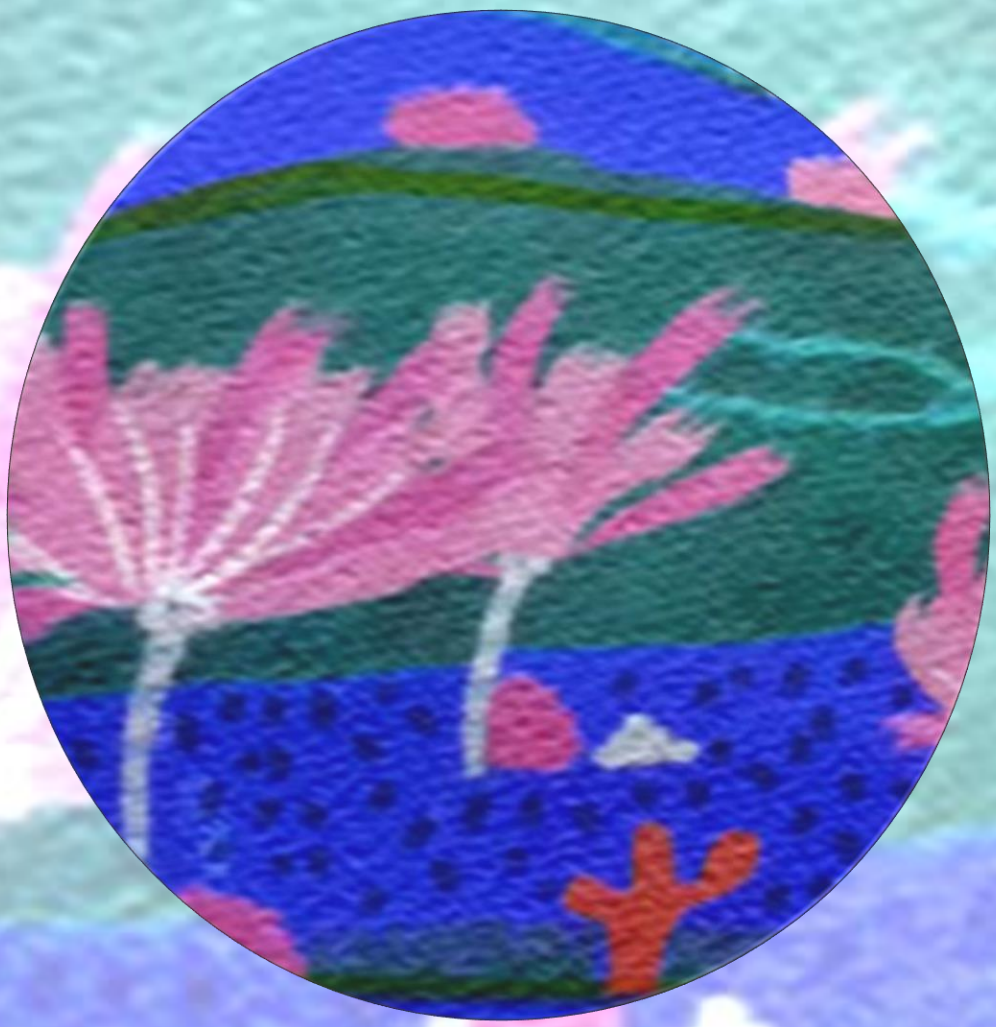
2 ESDRAS 3



1611 KING JAMES VERSION

Arranged By M. Love

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2 ESDRAS 3

3:1 In the thirtieth year after the ruin of the city I was in Babylon, and lay troubled upon my bed, and my thoughts came up over my heart:

3:2 For I saw the

desolation of Sion, and the wealth of them that dwelt at Babylon.

3:3 And my spirit was sore moved, so that I began to speak words full of fear to the most High,

and said,
3:4 O Lord, who
bearest rule,
thou spakest at
the beginning,
when thou didst
plant the earth,
and that thyself
alone, and
commandedst
the people,

3:5 And gavest a body unto Adam without soul, which was the workmanship of thine hands, and didst breathe into him the breath of life, and he was made living

before thee.
3:6 And thou leadest him into paradise, which thy right hand had planted, before ever the earth came forward.
3:7 And unto him thou gavest

commandment to love thy way: which he transgressed, and immediately thou appointedst death in him and in his generations, of whom came nations, tribes,

people, and kindreds, out of number.

3:8 And every people walked after their own will, and did wonderful things before thee, and despised thy commandments.

3:9 And again in process of time thou broughtest the flood upon those that dwelt in the world, and destroyedst them.

3:10 And it came to pass in every of them, that as

death was to Adam, so was the flood to these.

3:11 Nevertheless one of them thou leftest, namely, Noah with his household, of whom came all

righteous men.
3:12 And it happened, that when they that dwelt upon the earth began to multiply, and had gotten them many children, and were a great people, they

began again to be more ungodly than the first.

3:13 Now when they lived so wickedly before thee, thou didst choose thee a man from among them, whose name was

Abraham.
3:14 Him thou lovedst, and unto him only thou shewedst thy will:
3:15 And madest an everlasting covenant with him, promising him that thou

wouldest never forsake his seed.
3:16 And unto him thou gavest Isaac, and unto Isaac also thou gavest Jacob and Esau. As for Jacob, thou didst choose him to thee, and

put by Esau: and so Jacob became a great multitude.

3:17 And it came to pass, that when thou leadest his seed out of Egypt, thou broughtest them up to the

mount Sinai.
3:18 And bowing
the heavens,
thou didst set
fast the earth,
movedst the
whole world, and
madest the
depths to
tremble, and
troubledst the

men of that age.
3:19 And thy glory went through four gates, of fire, and of earthquake, and of wind, and of cold; that thou mightest give the law unto the

seed of Jacob, and diligence unto the generation of Israel.

3:20 And yet tookest thou not away from them a wicked heart, that thy law might bring forth

fruit in them.
3:21 For the first
Adam bearing
a wicked heart
transgressed,
and was
overcome; and
so be all they
that are born
of him.
3:22 Thus

infirmity was made permanent; and the law (also) in the heart of the people with the malignity of the root; so that the good departed away, and the evil abode still.

3:23 So the times passed away, and the years were brought to an end: then didst thou raise thee up a servant, called David:

3:24 Whom thou commandedst to

build a city unto thy name, and to offer incense and oblations unto thee therein.

3:25 When this was done many years, then they that inhabited the city

forsook thee,
3:26 And in all
things did even
as Adam and all
his generations
had done: for
they also had a
wicked heart:
3:27 And so thou
gavest thy city
over into the

hands of thine enemies.
3:28 Are their deeds then any better that inhabit Babylon, that they should therefore have the dominion over Sion?
3:29 For when I

came thither, and had seen impieties without number, then my soul saw many evildoers in this thirtieth year, so that my heart failed me.

3:30 For I have seen how thou

sufferest them sinning, and hast spared wicked doers: and hast destroyed thy people, and hast preserved thine enemies, and hast not signified it.

3:31 I do not remember how this way may be left: Are they then of Babylon better than they of Sion?
3:32 Or is there any other

people that knoweth thee beside Israel? or what generation hath so believed thy covenants as Jacob?

3:33 And yet their reward appeareth not,

and their labour hath no fruit: for I have gone here and there through the heathen, and I see that they flow in wealth, and think not upon thy

commandments.
3:34 Weigh
thou therefore
our wickedness
now in the
balance, and
their's also
that dwell the
world; and so
shall thy name
no where be

found but
in Israel.
3:35 Or when
was it that
they which
dwell upon the
earth have not
sinned in thy
sight? or what
people have so
kept thy

commandments?
3:36 Thou shalt find that Israel by name hath kept thy precepts; but not the heathen.